
CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Vice-Chair, John Ellis, called the June 27, 2022, Business meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: John Ellis Vice Chair; Donna Pridmore, Secretary/Treasurer; Scott Rumsey, Supervisor; Roger Marsonette; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor; being a quorum of the Board.

Board members absent: Pete Woll, Chair. Absence is excused.

Also, in attendance were Samantha Tappenbeck, Ginger Rigdon, Ginger Kauffman, Flathead CD Staff; Sandy Heil; Mark and Grayce Siderius; Kenny Breidinger, FWP; Sean Johnson, NRCS; Casey Malmquist; Bruce Boody; Brad Bennett, WET; Pete Wade; Gordon Ash, Associate Supervisor; Bill Yankee, Walter Bastiaanse.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Item 1: Signature Authority

- Authorization for Samantha Tappenbeck to sign on behalf of Supervisors attending the meeting virtually.

Consent Agenda Item 2: Minutes

- 5/23/2022 Business Meeting Minutes

Consent Agenda Item 3: Financial

Check Detail dated 06/13/2022

1. CHS \$250.50

Check Detail dated 06/22/2022

1. BCBS \$2132.17
2. Brook Blakeley \$5,000.00
3. Center for Native Plants \$3,600.00
4. Diana Jungemann-Salmela \$2,539.92
5. Flathead Audubon Society \$4,901.14
6. FVCC \$5,000.00
7. James Peterson \$3,370.97
8. Marcia Rosko \$573.75
9. River Design Group Inc. \$13,228.75
10. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi \$5,000.00
11. Flathead County – Imagine! Libraries \$1,500.00

Consent Agenda Item 4: Correspondence

- DNRC Call for CD Advisory Council Members
- DNRC-CDB Conservation Matters
- MACD Virtual Leadership Training

Donna Pridmore motioned “to approve the consent agenda.” Roger Marsonette seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- College Scholarship recipient, Grace Siderius reported she is planning to attend Montana State University in Bozeman and will be studying animal science with a focus in livestock and industry.
- Bill Yankee stated he and his wife recently moved to the area. He is a retired rancher and educator and served two 4-year terms with the Popo Agie Conservation District in Lander, Wyoming. He also served on the Wyoming state-wide Water Development Commission. He expressed interest in learning about Flathead CD and possibly getting involved.

310's

Inspiration Drive Properties, FL-2022-007, Whitefish River, dock: John Ellis explained the application was filed 3/7/2022 for a trail and dock on Whitefish River. He noted that condominiums will be built also. A site visit was held, and the application was tabled at the April 310-meeting. A special meeting was then held with the City of Whitefish regarding the Whitefish trail. John noted that he will attend the Whitefish Bike/Pedestrian meeting on July 11th, and has been in contact with John Phelps, Chair of that committee, to inspect the remaining parts of the trail. John asked for other comments.

Casey Malmquist stated the dock has been removed from the application, and we are now only discussing the trail. At the last meeting there was discussion regarding the trail on this and the neighboring properties, however, he asked that only the property in the application be considered.

Kenny Breidinger noted the meeting with the City of Whitefish was productive and they understand the district's concerns. He stated in his evaluation of this application he looks at the connection between Kay Beller Park and BNSF properties as one project. We now have a point person, Craig Workman, with the City of Whitefish, and can move forward with figuring out a plan for that piece of trail.

Samantha Tappenbeck stated additional information has been received from the City of Whitefish which includes a copy of the letter (from the attorney for the condominium owners to the City of Whitefish) with a map for easement of the trail, water quality checklist, Whitefish water quality regulations, and information regarding permitting of the whole trail system working. Updated GIS information is forthcoming. Donna Pridmore noted that the condominium owners did not want the trail right under their decks, which was underwater at the time. Samantha screen shared the map showing the trail and proposed easement. Kenny asked if this was finalized, and no one knew. Casey stated the contention was the city indicated they never

received a copy of this. Donna asked Casey if what was being shown in the map connects with the trail as proposed. Casey stated he had not seen this before and noted independently there has been a proposed trail design for that piece that we are in a line with on Miles Avenue but was not sure if that relates to this. Casey stated he is between a rock and a hard spot and asked if the application could be tabled to allow him time to talk with the city. He noted this is a condition of approval for me to move forward with the project, and if the City could untie/decouple those two, which I think they would, then he did not need a decision tonight.

Donna Pridmore motioned "to table FL-2022-007 until the next 310-meeting." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Heil, FL-2021-032, Blaine Creek, bridge: John Ellis stated the extension request was tabled at the 6/13/2022 meeting and the Board requested the landowner provide an explanation for the extension request. John reviewed the history of the complaint and permit.

Sandy Heil explained that her mother-in-law owns the property and has had major health issues. She stated they did not want to burden her and took on the project financially themselves. They could not do it financially last year but have been working hard to put funding aside to remove the culverts and put in a bridge. They now have a contractor that will be working with them to do it themselves. Part of the project will begin late fall before it freezes, and the rest of the work will be done in the spring before water flows. This is the only access to the property. Donna Pridmore stated the concern was the culverts were cut too high and narrow to get the road width for firetrucks etc. to go over. Gordon Ash read his notes stating *culverts poorly installed going down the stream at the wrong grade. Scouring an issue on the lake side.* The permit is to remove the culverts and replace with a bridge.

Donna Pridmore motioned "to approve extension of permit #FL-2021-032 until 9/6/2023." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Karrow Whitefish Investments LLC, FL-2021-027, Whitefish River, path/trail, bridge, dock, stormwater system: John Ellis explained that a permit extension was approved, with the condition that the center line of the trail be staked out for a final inspection and approval prior to being graded. Retaining walls were also to be staked out. The centerline stakes were placed, and a map of the trail, via GPS, was submitted. John attended the final inspection and provided and reviewed photos with the Board. Staff noted that the permit extension was mailed 5/9/2022.

NEW BUSINESS

Supervisor Resignation: Lech Naumovich submitted a letter of resignation on 6/17/2022. Samantha Tappenbeck stated Supervisors and Staff have reached out to him to see if he might reconsider. Donna Pridmore recommended waiting to make a final decision until the district receives further information from Lech.

Donna Pridmore motioned "to table the acceptance of Lech Naumovich's resignation until the next business meeting." Roger Marsonette seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FY 2022/2023 Conservation Grant Applications: Samantha Tappenbeck explained the district received six applications for the coming fiscal year (FY) 2022/2023. Donna Pridmore and Gordon Ash conducted on the ground reviews and provided summary information and recommendations based on review and ranking. Samantha noted that the summary sheet includes score and ranking criteria. She explained the program and review processes and noted the total funding request for FY 2022/2023 is \$22,805.85. Gordon and Samantha described applications and proposed projects for CG-2022-01 and CG-2022-05. Samantha noted CG-2020-06 is incomplete and that additional information had not been received, but if the applicant does submit additional information, the Board may want to consider budgeting additional funding to bring the budget for FY 2022/2023 to \$25,000.00. Supervisors noted the final program budget can be set at the budget meeting.

Donna Pridmore motioned “to approve applications CG-2022-01 to CG-2022-05.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: John Ellis closed the meeting at 8:17 P.M. to discuss personnel. Staff Ginger Rigdon and Ginger Kauffman left the room. John Ellis re-opened the meeting at 8:38 P.M. and staff returned.

Scott Rumsey motioned “to extend an offer to Virginia (Ginger) Rigdon as Public Outreach Specialist at Grade 8 Step 6.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Flathead CD Staff: Attached.

Natural Resources & Conservation Service (NRCS): Sean Johnson, NRCS reviewed the attached report with the Board, and noted that due to flooding, Flathead County has been added to the disaster designation by Governor Gianforte. He explained that this provides funding through the NRCS EWP Watershed Protection Program, which requires a sponsor organization/entity (with taxing authority) such as the conservation district or potentially Flathead County. The sponsor would provide 25% via cash or goods and services, and make sure practices are installed according to NRCS specifications. NRCS would provide technical and 75% financial assistance to the sponsor. Projects are *engineering heavy* (e.g., irrigation systems, bank stabilization, rehab projects etc.). The program does not cover infrastructure, only private landowners experiencing damage to natural resources, and must be flood related.

Samantha Tappenbeck stated that she really liked the idea to potentially build and strengthen the partnership between NRCS and FCD, to be a better connection for local landowners through the district to those NRCS programs, and to provide information and assistance to landowners along the lower Flathead River that are impacted by flooding. Her concerns were the timeline, budget, planning, and staff capacity. The Board thought a meeting between the district, NRCS and Flathead County would be appropriate. Sean stated he will report to his supervisor that the board is interested in setting up a meeting and that he will identify potential meeting dates/times.

DNRC Conservation Districts Bureau: Attached.

Flathead County Planning Board (FCPB): No report.

Whitefish City Planning Board (WCPB): John Ellis reported WCPB approved a mini-storage warehouse and a guesthouse.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC): Ginger Rigdon reported HBWC met June 1st. There is major concern that the City of Whitefish is pulling more water than what is needed out of Haskill Creek, that excess is draining into a different basin, and how to address/resolve the matter. A letter expressing those concerns is being drafted and will be sent to the city. Discussion was also held regarding the success of prescribed fires/burns on the Mountain.

Flathead Basin Commission (FBC): Samantha Tappenbeck reported FBC held a 2-day septic system workshop at the Flathead Lake Biological Station. Speakers provided information on what is being done, studies, and mitigation examples undertaken in other parts of the country that are dealing with similar issues to Flathead. There was discussion on current practices in Flathead County, a GIS study of septic risk in Flathead County, and a DNA-tracer study which is in progress to identify points of septic leachate into surface water bodies. An on-site wastewater treatment committee meeting will be held in July.

Flathead River Commission (FRC): FRC Chair, Mark Siderius stated that landowners on Half Moon Slough have submitted a petition for a no-wake zone to the FWP Commission. He reported that he had talked with the National Weather Service and Flathead County Commissioners about addressing the flooding issue, and the message going forward to Senators Daines and Tester, and Governor Gianforte. A federal delegation will call a meeting with all stakeholders in August regarding dam management decisions as related to the flooding event. Donna Pridmore added at the last meeting Samantha Tappenbeck provided an update on the Flathead River Erosion Study, and the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1st.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

Whitefish Trails Meeting Follow-up: Samantha Tappenbeck stated this is an opportunity to discuss steps in follow-up to the meeting with the City of Whitefish regarding the Whitefish trail system. She noted that regulatory and criteria information was received from Whitefish City Staff, the Public Works Department and from Riverbend Condos Association.

- District staff is working with the Public Works Dept. to get an accurate representation (shape files) of trail sections that have been permitted (310, 124, etc.), so the map the district provided at that meeting can be updated.
- John Ellis will contact John Phelps of the Bike/Ped Committee to schedule a time to view proposed areas of the trail.
- After the bike/ped tour, district staff will contact Craig Workman (point of contact) and schedule a meeting with the Public Works and Planning departments.
- The district should provide copies of the Adopted Rules and 310 forms to the City.
- The district could suggest the city add stream permitting information into their pre-app form and Water Quality Check list of considerations under Part 3; and suggest that part of the City of Whitefish's process could be to inform applicants along streams that they need to contact the conservation district for permits.

Letter Regarding Flooding: Verdell Jackson read a letter he wrote regarding flooding issues and the help that was provided to his community. He noted that he will send the letter to the Daily Inter Lake.

The next 310-meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 11, 2022, 7:00 P.M. via ZOOM.

Adjournment: Verdell Jackson motioned "to adjourn." Roger Marsonette seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman
Administrator

Reviewed By:

Samantha Tappenbeck
Resource Conservationist

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

<u>8/22/2022</u>	<u>John Ellis</u>	<u>Vice-Chair</u>
Date	Signature	Title (Chair, etc.)